

## **SAN MANUEL BAND OF MISSION INDIANS HOLDING GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY FOR HOTEL PROJECT IN WASHINGTON, D.C.**

**SAN MANUEL INDIAN NATION, Calif. – March 3, 2003** – The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, in collaboration with Four Fires LLC, announced today a groundbreaking ceremony for a \$43 million hotel project will be held on March 6 in Washington, D.C. at the hotel site. The ceremony will include tribal leaders from each of the four tribes comprising Four Fires LLC as well as principle owners, investors and hospitality partners.

The development of the hotel project in Washington, D.C. is the first joint business venture for Four Fires LLC in conjunction with the Donohoe Companies, the development partner. The groundbreaking will mark the start of development of the 13-story, 233-suite Residence Inn by Marriott, which will be located three blocks from the future site of the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian and the United States Capitol. The hotel project, expected to reach completion by the summer of 2004, marks the first tribally owned enterprise in Washington, D.C. and is a powerful advance towards the tribe's economic goals.

"The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians are thrilled to see the rate at which the development is progressing and anticipate it to move quickly throughout the entire process," said the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians Tribal Chairman, Deron Marquez. "It is opportunities such as this that allow our people to branch out away from the gaming industry and seek ways in which to build strong economies for our communities to sustain a viable future for generations to come."

Four Fires LLC is an economic partnership between four tribal governments including the Forest County Potawatomi Community of Wisconsin, the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin, the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians and the Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians, both of Southern California. The coalition hopes to serve as an economic model, benefiting other tribes interested in working together to strengthen efforts and diversify their economic futures. The partnership represents the largest business investment collaboration for American Indian tribes in history.

### **About the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians**

Descendents of the Serrano Indians, the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians inhabited a territory spanning the San Bernardino Mountains, valley and adjoining desert lands for centuries. Today, the tribe is located on the San Manuel Reservation near Highland, Calif. Like other tribal lands in the United States, the San Manuel Reservation is a sovereign nation with its own system of government and tribal laws. The tribe operates the San Manuel Indian Bingo and Casino and the San Manuel Bottled Water Group, in addition to managing a variety of economic ventures. A partner in the community, the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians actively contributes to a variety of projects in neighboring areas. Nearby cities and towns receive support from the tribe for cultural, social, and economic projects to benefit the common good of the communities in which the tribe's members live and work.

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